

Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency (ROSS) Program

**Neighborhood
Networks**

Neighborhood Networks FY03 Highlights

- **Application Deadline: May 27, 2003**
- **Where to send the application:**
Grants Management Center, Mail
Stop: *Insert Name of Program or*
***Funding Category*, 2001 Jefferson**
Davis Hwy,
Suite 703, Arlington, VA 22202

Neighborhood Networks FY03 Highlights

- **TOTAL Funding: \$14.9 million**
- **Funding Allocation:**
 - **50% will go to applications for new centers**
 - **50% will go to applications for existing centers**
 - **5% of available funding will go to national nonprofit organizations provided there is a sufficient number of qualified applications**

Neighborhood Networks FY03 Highlights

- **Maximum Funding Amount:**
 - **For *existing* centers:**
 - **For PHAs with 1-780 occupied conventional public housing units, the maximum grant award is \$50,000**
 - **For PHAs with 781-7,300 occupied conventional public housing units, the maximum grant award is \$100,000**

Neighborhood Networks FY03 Highlights

- **Maximum Funding Amount:**
 - **For *existing* centers:**
 - **For PHAs with 7,301 or more occupied conventional public housing units, the maximum grant award is \$200,000**

Neighborhood Networks FY03 Highlights

- **For *existing* centers (continued):**
 - **Nonprofit entities that have resident support or the support of Resident Associations/Resident Organizations are limited to \$100,000 for each RA/RO for a maximum grant award of \$300,000.**

Neighborhood Networks FY03 Highlights

- **Maximum Funding Amount:**
 - **For *new* centers:**
 - **For PHAs with 1-780 occupied conventional public housing units, the maximum grant award is \$150,000**
 - **For PHAs with 781-7,300 occupied conventional public housing units, the maximum grant award is \$250,000**

Neighborhood Networks FY03 Highlights

- **Maximum Funding Amount:**
 - **For *new* centers:**
 - **For PHAs with 7,301 or more occupied conventional public housing units, the maximum grant award is \$450,000**

Neighborhood Networks FY03 Highlights

- **Maximum Funding Amount:**
 - **For *new* centers (continued):**
 - **Nonprofit entities that have resident support or the support of Resident Associations/Resident Organizations are limited to \$100,000 for each RA/RO for a maximum grant award of \$300,000.**

Neighborhood Networks FY03 Highlights

- **Eligible Applicants:**
 - PHAs and
 - National and local nonprofits, including community and faith-based organizations with expertise in this area.
- **Applications from PHAs and nonprofit organizations targeting the same public housing developments will not be funded.**

Neighborhood Networks Primary Changes from FY02

- **Application page limit of 30 pages (not including resumes, forms and other supporting documentation such as MOUs with partners).**
- **Field office review of past performance which is a threshold requirement.**
- **Administrative costs are reduced from a maximum of 20% to 10%.**

Neighborhood Networks Primary Changes from FY02

- **Both eligible and ineligible activities are more clearly defined.**
- **There is no application kit and fewer forms all of which will be included with the SuperNOFA.**

Neighborhood Networks Primary Changes from FY02

- **Salary for Project Coordinator up to \$62,500. Salary and administrative expenses may not exceed 30% of total grant amount.**

Neighborhood Networks Primary Changes from FY02

- **Deobligation of funds: HUD may deobligate funds if proposed activities are not initiated or completed within the required time period after the effective date of the grant. The grant agreement will spell this out in more detail.**

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Definition of Terms

An existing computer center is:

- A computer lab, or community technology center already owned and operated by a PHA or nonprofit which serves residents of public housing and which has not received prior Neighborhood Networks funding; or

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Definition of Terms

An existing computer center is:

- A computer lab officially designated a HUD PIH Neighborhood Networks center by virtue of prior funding received under this grant program.

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Definition of Terms

- A new computer center is one that:
 - 1) is not operational;
 - 2) is in development; and/or
 - 3) needs funding under this grant program to become fully operational and serve residents of public housing.

Neighborhood Networks Program Goals

- **The aim of NN is to provide a safe, convenient and nurturing learning environment that will:**
 - 1. Give residents marketable job skills;**
 - 2. Help children and youth succeed in school;**
 - 3. Reduce welfare dependency;**
 - 4. Improve the community; and**
 - 5. Provide information that improves residents' quality of life.**

Neighborhood Networks Application Design

- **Applicants should design comprehensive programs that:**
 - **Provide job training;**
 - **Promote economic self-sufficiency;**
 - **Increase the use of computer technology;**
 - **Expand educational opportunities for residents;**

Neighborhood Networks Application Design

- **Applicants should design comprehensive programs that:**
 - **Develop access to health and nutrition information; and**
 - **Meet other needs/interests of residents.**

Neighborhood Networks Application Design

- **HUD is looking for proposals that involve partnerships with other organizations. Grant applications should explain in detail:**
 - **Partners' area(s) of expertise;**
and
 - **Role of the partners in the overall program**

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What to Include in Your Application

- **All required forms including the Logic Model**
- **Business plan for the entire three-year period of the grant**
- **Narrative for each rating factor**
- **Signed MOUs, partnership agreements, letters of commitment from both applicant and other partners**
- **Clear indication of the value of the match**

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How to Assemble Your Application

- **On page 21537 of the Federal Register you will find a description of what to include under each TAB.**
- **On page 21543 of the Federal Register you will find the “Application Checklist and Submission Format” which will help you ensure that you are including all forms and documents in the appropriate order.**

Neighborhood Networks Eligible Activities

- **Hiring of a Project Coordinator who will:**
 - **Ensure the center's programs achieve your grant proposal's objectives;**
 - **Market the program to residents;**

Neighborhood Networks Eligible Activities

- **Hiring of a Project Coordinator who will:**
 - **Assess participating residents' needs, interests, skills and job-readiness;**
 - **Assess residents' needs for supportive services;**

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Eligible Activities

- Design grant activities based on residents' needs;**
- Monitor the progress of program participants; and**
- Evaluate the overall success of the program.**
- Life Skills Training**
 - How to apply for a job**
 - Credit worthiness**

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Eligible Activities

- Opening a bank account**
- Creating a weekly spending budget**
- Contingency planning for child care and transportation**
- Real Life Issues:**
 - Tax forms**
 - Voter registration**
 - Lease samples**

Neighborhood Networks Eligible Activities

- **Literacy training**
- **GED preparation**
- **Mentoring**
- **College preparatory classes and information**
- **Goal setting**
 - **Working with residents to define professional, educational and economic goals**

Neighborhood Networks Eligible Activities

- **Job training:**
 - **Oral and written communication skills**
 - **Work ethic**
 - **Interpersonal and teamwork skills**
 - **Resume writing**
 - **Interviewing techniques**
 - **Creating job training and placement programs with local employers**

Neighborhood Networks Eligible Activities

- **Supportive services based on residents' needs:**
 - **Childcare**
 - **Transportation**
 - **Health care information and services such as referrals**

Neighborhood Networks Eligible Activities

- **Physical Improvements:**
 - **If renovation, conversion, or repairs are done off-site, PHAs must provide documentation with their application showing that they have control of the space for at least 3 years but preferably four.**
- **Maintenance and Insurance costs**

Neighborhood Networks Eligible Activities

- **Purchase of computers, printers, software and other peripheral equipment**
- **Security and related costs**
- **Distance learning equipment**
 - **As long as your application indicates that your center will be working with a college, university or other educational organization.**

Neighborhood Networks Eligible Activities

- **Administrative costs:**
 - **May not exceed 10% of the grant award.**
 - **May be used for:**
 - **Supplies**
 - **Salaries for resident employees hired as part of the grant program**
 - **Local travel**
 - **Utilities**
 - **Furniture/equipment**
- **Use HUD-424-CBW to itemize Administrative costs**

Neighborhood Networks Ineligible Activities

- **Payment of wages and/or salaries to participants receiving supportive services or training**
- **Purchase or rental of land**
- **Purchase or rental of vehicles**
- **Cost of application preparation**

Neighborhood Networks Threshold Requirements

- **1. Match – 25% of requested grant amount**
 - Match must be “firmly committed”
 - Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs)/Letters of commitment must be signed by people authorized to commit resources on behalf of the organization making the match

Neighborhood Networks Threshold Requirements

- **1. Match – 25% of requested grant amount**
 - **MOUs/Letters of commitment must indicate the value of the commitment and should be for the duration of the grant**

Neighborhood Networks Threshold Requirements

- MOUs/Letters of Commitment must be dated within two months of the application deadline and be on organization letterhead**
- If applicants will be contributing to the match they must also submit a signed letter of commitment**

Neighborhood Networks Threshold Requirements

- If you are applying for more than one ROSS grant you must have different sources of match donations for each grant application**

Neighborhood Networks Threshold Requirements

- **2. Past Performance**
 - **Field offices will be evaluating applications for**
 - **Past success in obtaining measurable outcomes**
 - **Benefits accrued to residents**
 - **Timely expenditure of funds**

Neighborhood Networks Threshold Requirements

- **2. Past Performance**
 - **Field offices will be evaluating applications for**
 - **Leveraging of funding or in-kind services**
 - **Long-term partnerships formed**
 - **Program administration; and**
 - **Fiscal management**

Neighborhood Networks Threshold Requirements

- **3. A signed Partnership Agreement with a Contract Administrator if you are:**
 - **A troubled PHA**
 - **A nonprofit applicant**

Neighborhood Networks Threshold Requirements

- **4. Nonprofit applicants must include letters from Resident Organizations (ROs) they will be working with indicating that they support your application.**

Neighborhood Networks Program Requirements

- **Resident assessment**
- **Submission of a 3-year business plan**
- **Partnering**
- **Performance Reports on a semi-annual basis**
 - **Narrative progress report**
 - **Financial report using SF-269A**

Neighborhood Networks Program Requirements

- **Final report due to field 90 days after termination of grant agreement**
- **Final audit – due to the field office within 60 days of issuance**

Neighborhood Networks Application Selection Process

- **Four types of reviews**
- **Applications must receive a minimum score of 75 to be considered for funding**
- **Geographic diversity**

Neighborhood Networks Rating Factors

- **Rating Factor 1: Capacity of the Applicant and Relevant Organizational Staff (25 points)**
 - **Proposed program staffing**
 - **Staff experience**
 - **Staff capacity**
 - **Past Performance**
 - **Program Administration and Fiscal Management**

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Rating Factors

- **Rating Factor 2: Need/Extent of the Problem (15 points)**
 - **Socioeconomic profile**
 - **Local training program information**
 - **Resource documentation**
 - **Demonstrated link between proposed activities and local need**

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Rating Factors

- **Rating Factor 3: Soundness of Approach (30 points)**
 - **Quality of the Business Plan and Supporting Narrative**
 - **Specific services and/or activities**
 - **Feasibility and demonstrable benefits**
 - **Timeliness**
 - **Description of the problem and solution**

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Rating Factors

- **Rating Factor 3 (continued)**
 - **Budget Appropriateness/Efficient Use of Grant**
 - **Involving Residents in the design of the business plan**
- **Addressing HUD's Policy Priorities**
 - **Improving the quality of life in our Nation's communities**
 - **Providing full and equal access to grassroots faith-based and other community-based organizations**

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Rating Factors

- **Rating Factor 4: Leveraging Resources (20 points)**
 - **In rating this factor, HUD will look at the *extent* to which you partner, coordinate and leverage your services with other organizations serving the same or similar populations.**

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Rating Factors

- **Rating Factor 4: Leveraging Resources (20 points)**
 - **You must have at least a 25% match at a minimum.**
 - **Leveraging over 25% will earn more points**

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Rating Factors

- **Rating Factor 5: Achieving Results and Program Evaluation (10 points)**
 - **Your business plan and narrative must explain how you will measure actual accomplishments against anticipated achievements.**
 - **Applicants must submit a completed Logic Model.**

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Rating Factors

- **Rating Factor 5 (continued)**
 - **Applicants' business plan and supporting narrative must explain the following:**
 - **Goals or outcomes you want to achieve**
 - **Outputs**
 - **Timeline for achieving your goals/outcomes.**

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS